

12/8/17

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Watch Dr. Nester's Annual Meeting Presentation

We're imagining and creating a healthier tomorrow.

Leadership Rounds Dec. 11-22

It's your chance to talk with leaders.

DAISY Award Box Contest

The short procedure unit is the winner.

Donate Blood on Dec. 15

Give from noon-5 p.m. in the lobby conference room.

State of the Health Network Address

Our strategy begins with creating a great experience for you.

Meet LVHN's New CFO

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New I/S Security Measures

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LVH-Pocono West Plan Approved

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LVHN news

Hearing Just Fine – With a Little Help

Rehab an Effective Solution to Opioid Epidemic

LVHN Acquires Weller Health Education Center

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LVHN President and CEO Describes How LVHN is Imagining a Healthier
Tomorrow at the Annual Meeting

by [Richard Martuscelli](#) · December 8, 2017



Before an audience of about 300 community members, colleagues and members of LVHN's Board of Trustees, LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, asked the people of our community to use their imagination during LVHN's 2017 Community Annual Meeting. He asked them to imagine a health network that provides leading-edge care, discovers medical breakthroughs, gives you convenient access to care, delivers a great health care experience and creates a healthier community. "When you imagine these things, look no further than Lehigh Valley Health Network," Dr. Nester said.

During his President's Report, Dr. Nester talked about the health network's focus on quality care, as evidenced by the introduction of three new institutes at LVHN in 2017. He discussed LVHN's growth in all the communities we serve, as well as plans for additional growth in the months ahead. He outlined how you can take advantage of numerous conveniences to get access to the care you need. Finally, he touched upon the ways colleagues are using innovation to create a healthier community with TeleMedicine programs and other population health initiatives.

You can watch Dr. Nester's entire presentation and read LVHN's Annual Report online at LVHN.org/annualreport. There, you'll also get detailed information about LVHN's finances and community benefit, as well as see a list of LVHN leadership.

Leadership Rounds With Colleagues Scheduled Dec. 11-22

by [Jane Danish](#) · December 8, 2017

LVH–Hazleton senior leaders are continuing rounds to visit with colleagues in the nursing and ancillary

departments.

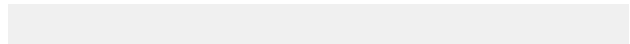
Do you have a question, comment or suggestion? Take note of when rounds will be in your area and feel free to stop one of our leaders to talk about it. Together, we can make a difference for our colleagues and our patients.

LEADERSHIP ROUNDS-ANCILLARY Dec. 11-15		
LOCATION/DEPARTMENTS	DATE AND TIME	LEADER
<u>Hospital-Lower Level</u> Purchasing/Storeroom, Central /Sterile Supply, Food Service, Housekeeping, Pharmacy	Dec. 12 at 9 a.m.	Melissa Curto
<u>Hospital 3rd, 4th and 5th floors</u> Respiratory Therapy, PT, Cardiology, 5 th floor nursing unit	Dec. 11 at 1 p.m.	Michele Roberts
<u>Hospital-First Floor</u> Admissions, switchboard, PAT/SPU, Endo, OR, Radiology	Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.	John Fletcher
<u>Hospital Annex</u> Lab, Quality Management, Medical Records	Dec. 11 at 1 p.m.	Michael Golden
<u>Healthy Beginnings</u> <u>Health & Wellness Center</u> Fitness, Rehab, Occ Health, Lab, Cardiac Diagnostics, Radiology, Patient Access, Café, Welcome Desk.	Dec. 13 at 11 a.m.	Dr. Anthony Valente
<u>Hospital Campus Buildings</u> B&E: Marketing, Community Relations, Bariatrics, Patient Access, Home Health, Finance ETC: Human Resources Plant Operations	Dec. 14 at 1:30 p.m.	Murray Swim

LEADERSHIP ROUNDS-NURSING Dec. 18-22		
LOCATION/DEPARTMENTS	DATE AND TIME	LEADER
Emergency Department	Dec. 21 at 6:30 a.m.	Murray Swim
2 nd Floor Nursing Unit	Dec. 22 at 6 a.m.	Michele Roberts
3 rd Floor Nursing Unit	Dec. 21 at 6 a.m.	Dr. Anthony Valente
4 th Floor Nursing Unit	Dec. 18 at 6 a.m.	Michael Golden
5 th Floor Nursing Unit	Dec. 18 at 6 a.m.	John Fletcher
7 th Floor Nursing Unit	Dec. 18 at 6 a.m.	Melissa Curto

DAISY Award Box Decorating Contest Winner Announced

by [Jane Danish](#) · December 8, 2017



The [DAISY Award](#) Committee is happy to announce that the short procedure unit (SPU) has won the DAISY box decorating contest. SPU's box was selected out of 18 beautifully decorated boxes received from departments throughout LVHN facilities at Hazleton. Colleagues and visitors voted on the boxes during the recent DAISY Award program kick-off event held at the hospital campus.

The second place winner was fourth floor medical-surgical, and the third place winner was the emergency department.

The DAISY boxes now are located at various locations throughout LVH–Hazleton, the Health & Wellness Center at Hazleton and LVPG offices. [Nomination forms](#) are located at each location as well. A DAISY Award winner will be selected quarterly, with the first award to be presented in January.



Pictured with the winning DAISY Award box are short procedure unit colleagues (l-r) Mary Ann Segilia, RN, Pamela Murray, RN, Carol Kolensky, RN, Joanne Zavitsky, RN, Stephanie McCullough, RN, and Theresa Luchetti, RN.

Give Blood. If Not You, Then Who?

by [Jane Danish](#) · December 7, 2017

It is the time of year when our thoughts turn to gift giving. And

there is no better gift to give than the gift of life. LVHN and Miller-Keystone Blood Center make it easy for you to give the gift of life.

Visit giveapint.org/LVHN to sign up for the LVH–Hazleton blood drive on Thursday, Dec. 14, 12-5 p.m. in the hospital’s first floor lobby conference room.

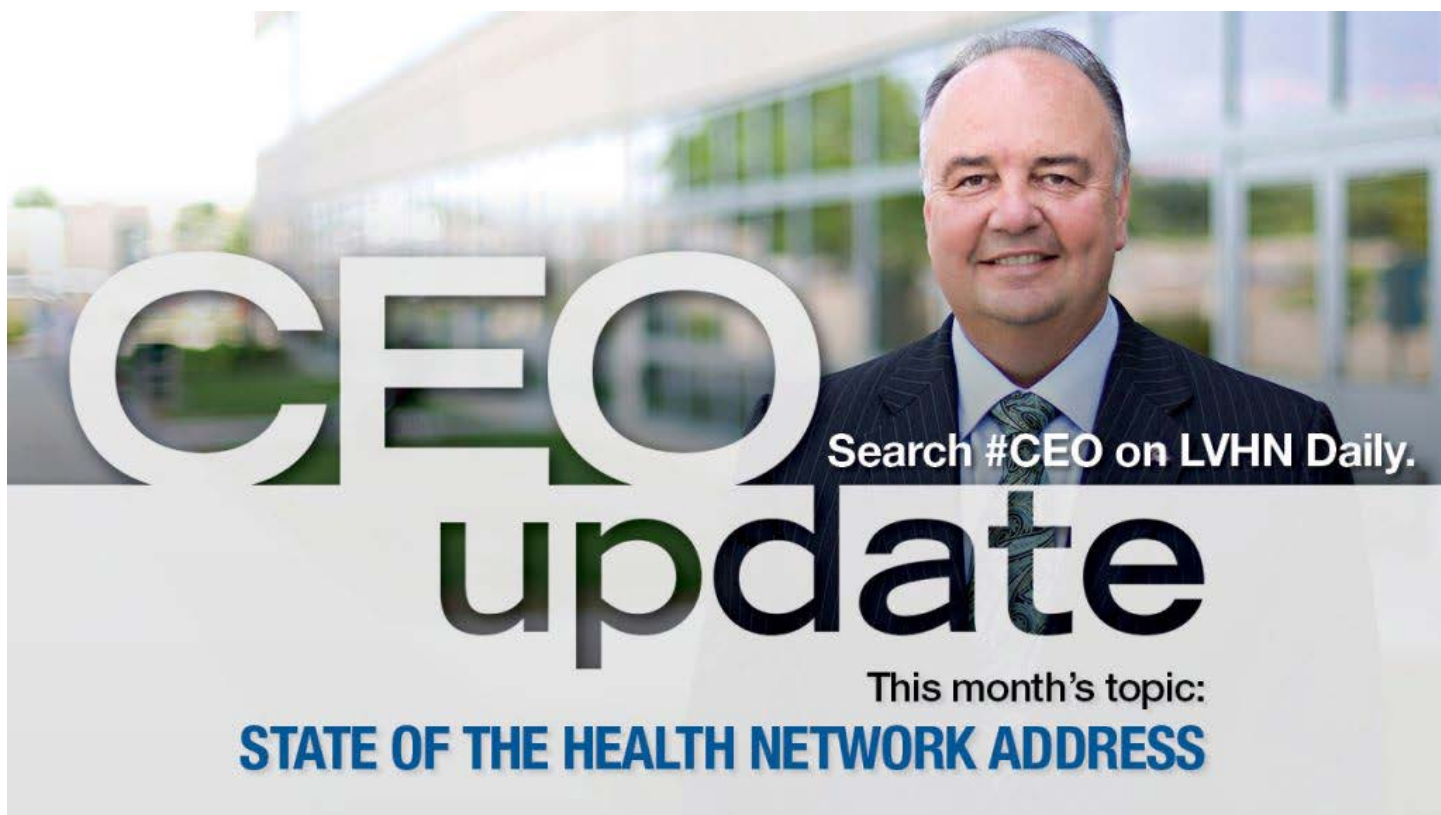
By signing up online, you save time and are rewarded by earning points for each donation you make through the LifeSaver Rewards Program. These points can be redeemed for a variety of gifts at the online shop. You also can attend the blood drive without signing up online. Registration will be done at the time of donation.

To reserve a donation time, visit giveapint.org/LVHN or call Lisa Marie Halecky at 570-501-4249. Walk-ins also are welcome. Each donor will receive a \$5 cafeteria voucher.



LVHN President and CEO Delivers State of the Health Network Address

by [hazlvhndaily](#) · November 22, 2017



PRIDE is at the heart of everything we do because it's all about how we treat people. We recently surveyed colleagues about our PRIDE behaviors, listened to your suggestions and updated our PRIDE behaviors to put you first, even before our patients. Here is what's new about PRIDE:

- **You're asked to make the PRIDE Promise**, a personal commitment to practicing these behaviors.
- **We listened to you and included the new things that you told us are important** to infuse into our culture (creating time, trust and teamwork by being present, engaged, positive and accountable).

Practicing PRIDE means we're listening to you and making investments in you. Here's how:

- **You asked for better fitness benefits.** Now, all colleagues can use LVHN Fitness facilities at no cost and with no minimum visit requirement.
- **You asked for professional and personal growth opportunities.** Now through January, we'll begin rolling out free development opportunities designed to help you be at your best.
- **You asked to have more interaction with leadership.** Now, colleagues are invited to the State of the Health Network Address. We're hosting Town Hall meetings, Casual Conversations and PRIDE Rounds. And leaders are providing more communication via blogs and emails. Coming soon, colleagues will be invited to join a "colleague ambassador" program, which will promote even more two-way communication between staff and leadership.
- **We'll keep listening to you.** In February, we'll conduct our next Colleague Survey. It's your opportunity to provide feedback about your experience at LVHN. We'll use your input to make your work experience

even better.

Creating an exceptional experience for you is so important, next fiscal year we'll expand our focus from the Triple Aim to the Quadruple Aim. We'll set goals to create Better Health, Better Care, Better Cost and a Better Colleague Experience.

The Power of Convenience

Today, Tomorrow, or the Next Day

- Call 888-402-LVHN
- Click LVHN.org or MyLVHN
- Walk in ExpressCARE
- Have a Video Visit
- View Provider Ratings

When you're at your best, our flywheel gains momentum. When you have the right work conditions, we all can give people the conveniences and experience they desire. We can "Just Say Yes." Here's what we're doing to provide people with convenient access to care:

- **We're making a promise to people** who call an LVPG practice or our Access Center for an appointment to get them in "today, tomorrow or the next day."
- **You can call one toll-free number**, 888-402-LVHN, to connect to everything LVHN has to offer.
- **You can click LVHN.org or MyLVHN** to schedule an appointment.
- **You can walk in to ExpressCARE** without an appointment for treatment of minor illnesses and injuries. You also can check ExpressCARE wait times on LVHN.org to learn how fast we can see you.
- **You can have a video visit** from the comfort of your home if you have a minor medical concern.
- **You can view providers' star ratings and comments** from verified patients on LVHN.org's Find a Doctor section to choose the best doctor for you.

During the leadership retreat, we brainstormed new ways to increase access to our services while keeping in

mind things already on your plate. Innovative ideas were shared. For example, LVPG is now hiring Access Coordinators, a new position in practices that are seeing patients going elsewhere for care. Access Coordinators will focus on removing barriers and getting people in the door for care. These colleagues fulfill a need and allow other practice colleagues to focus on their responsibilities. It's another example of LVHN's commitment to you and our patients.



The flywheel is gaining momentum. As we make it easy for people to access our service and provide the best experience, people will continue to turn to us for care, and they will tell their family and friends about their experience here. That patient loyalty propels the growth and revenue that allows us to create an even better place to work and make investments in all the regions LVHN serves.

We created a health network in which all of the quality services we provide are accessible within driving distance. Now, we will continue to make investments in all the communities we serve.

- **In Hazleton**, we'll modernize LVH–Hazleton, creating mostly private patient rooms, expanding its ER and adding parking. We will further develop the services we provide in center city Hazleton. We will create a new health care campus of the future at the existing Health & Wellness Center location. Recruitment of new primary care and specialty providers also is underway.
- **In Monroe County**, we're building LVH–Pocono West in Tannersville. It will include an ER, operating rooms, an inpatient medical-surgical unit with private rooms, advanced imaging services, a medical office

building and Sleep Disorders Center.

- **In Lower Nazareth Township**, we'll break ground on a new campus this summer. Nearly one-third of the people in Northampton County already receive care from an LVHN provider. Our focus is to help them get the care they need close to home.
- **In Carbon and Schuylkill counties**, we'll work to expand access to primary and specialty care. Significant activity is underway to identify locations where we can give residents easy access to the services they need close to home.
- **In Bucks County**, we're planning a new health center at the intersection of Pumping Station Road and Route 309.
- **Growth is taking place behind the scenes** to connect our health network with one integrated health record: Epic.



The LVHN strategy is summed up in the statement above. The state of our health network is strong. Together we can make it even stronger.

Leaders should:

- **Help create a great work experience** by supporting your staff.

Colleagues should

- **Take advantage of the opportunities** LVHN makes available to you. Join LVHN Fitness and take advantage of professional and personal development opportunities so you are at your best for our patients.
- **Practice PRIDE.** Promise to treat colleagues, patients and their families with PRIDE during every interaction.
- **Just say yes** when someone needs and appointment, test or service. If you see a barrier, raise the issue with the right people and help fix it.
- **Never forget why you chose a health care career** and that LVHN delivers care from the heart.

LVHN Names New Chief Financial Officer

by [hazlvhndaily](#) · December 1, 2017

This message is from Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, President and Chief Executive Officer

Several months ago I shared with you the news that Ed O'Dea, MBA, our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), has decided to retire at the end of the year. While it is hard to tell by his very busy work schedule, Ed is very much on track to complete his LVHN career on December 31. We will sincerely miss him and all he has done for our network.

Today, however, I am very pleased to announce that we have found someone with an extensive and diverse background and experience in health care finance and financial strategy. Thomas Marchozzi, MBA, CPA, will become Lehigh Valley Health Network's new Executive Vice President and CFO, effective January 1.

Tom brings to us the best of not-for-profit and for-profit leadership experience. He is joining us from Universal Health Services, Inc., a for-profit integrated health care delivery system which operates 28 acute care hospitals. He served the last three years as Senior Vice President and CFO for the Acute Care division out of Universal's King of Prussia, Pa., headquarters, where he was responsible for hospitals across the U.S. in high-growth, competitive markets.



Prior to joining UHS, Tom served as the Executive Vice President and CFO at Hartford HealthCare in Hartford, Conn., where he led an impressive turnaround in that organization's financial performance. He also assisted in cultivating Hartford Health's relationship with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance.

During his more than 30 years of professional experience, Tom has held senior-level finance positions at MedStar Health in Columbia, Md., Jefferson Health System in Radnor, Pa., and Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Tom earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Drexel University, and a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in finance from Villanova University. He has taken courses in a doctoral program with a concentration on higher education administration at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a certified healthcare financial professional and a certified public accountant. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Tom and his wife, Shelly, have two sons, Tom (34) and Jeff (31). He grew up in, and still has the majority of his extended family in, Conshohocken, Pa. Tom and Shelly enjoy spending time in the Poconos as well as summers at the beach in Ocean City, NJ. Please join me in welcoming Tom to LVHN.

LVHN Information Services Launching New Security Measures

by [hazlvhndaily](#) · November 21, 2017

This message is from Michael Minear, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer.

“Phishing” is a term that describes emails or calls designed to trick victims to share private or sensitive information such as login credentials, passwords, or personal and financial information.

“Spear phishing” is a more targeted effort in which attackers study and use information about an organization and its people. Attackers create even more compelling emails and online messages to trick people to give up login credentials and personal information.

LVHN tests colleagues regularly to make certain phishing emails are not responded to. Colleagues fall for the trick every time, and this cannot continue. **If the source of an email is not known, do not open it. Do not provide logins, passwords or other information to strangers.** Doing so puts the organization and your future with it at risk. This is not a drill. Health care organizations experience phishing attacks daily. Giving confidential login information in response to strange emails puts all LVHN systems at risk, and LVHN is taking every step to avoid that. Be vigilant of phishing scams at work and at home. To protect personal and LVHN patients’ information at LVHN, the information services (IS) team is launching additional security measures.



Outside Email Notification

The first step is launching an outside email alert on Nov. 20. Any email sent by an account outside of the LVHN network carries a visible banner warning (shown below) that the email was not generated internally. The banner is an instant reminder to pause and take action to ensure the sender is known. If the sender appears to be an LVHN colleague name, the reader should contact the sender to verify the message and validate any attachment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the LVHN network. Do not click on any links or open attachments unless the sender is known, and the content is verified as safe.

Two-factor Authentication

Passwords alone do not provide an appropriate level of security, even when complex and changed frequently. Beginning Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 10 a.m., LVHN is introducing two-factor authentication for

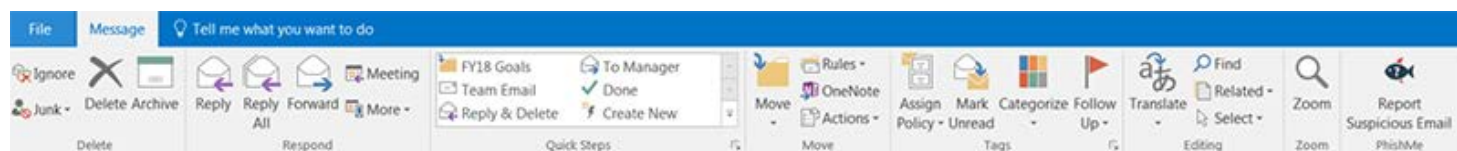
colleagues and vendors using the intranet.lvh.com page to connect to the LVHN network remotely, such as from off-campus locations.

When logging in from an off-campus location, colleagues will still be prompted at the intranet.lvh.com page to supply the login name (SUI) and password. For a second layer of protection, colleagues will be prompted to enter a second authentication code before entering the LVHN network. Step-by-step instructions will be sent to LVHN colleagues in preparation for two-factor authentication, but most are familiar with two-factor authentication through personal banking applications that send a verification code through SMS text to a mobile phone.

While the two-factor authentication process adds an extra step for colleagues to access LVHN systems remotely, it is proven to stop phishing attacks. If a hacker gets a colleague's login credentials, the hacker will never have access to the second factor, the SMS text message. Two-factor authentication makes LVHN a tougher target for cyber-attacks, causing hackers to move on to easier targets.

Report Suspicious Emails

If a suspicious email is received, click the button at the top of Outlook's Ribbon called, "Report Suspicious Email." If you're using a mobile device or webmail, forward emails to spam@lvhn.org.



A notification is generated that a report has been submitted, and the IS security team investigate the email as a potential phishing attack. There is no penalty for reporting a harmless email. However, if the email is malicious, the intelligence provided to IS security helps determine the source of the attack and prevent future attacks to the network. Remember to be on the lookout for suspicious emails.

Thank you for doing your part to keep information and technology protected at LVHN.

LVH–Pocono West Plan Approved

by [hazlvhndaily](#) · November 14, 2017

At LVHN, we are committed to providing the very best care to the communities we serve. Part of providing exceptional care is ensuring people have access to the services they need close to home. When LVHN and Pocono Health System merged in January, we vowed to abide by the commitment to build a new hospital campus along Route 715 in Tannersville. Since then, the leaders of LVH–Pocono and LVHN have been taking the time required to assess the community’s needs and identify the appropriate services for that campus.

To further our commitment to the people of Monroe County, we are pleased to announce that the LVHN Board of Trustees has approved the business plan, timeline and services for the new Lehigh Valley Hospital–Pocono West campus.

The new hospital will give people in the western region of Monroe County access to the quality health care services they need most. The state-of-the-art facility and campus will include:

- Emergency room
- Operating rooms (including preoperative and postoperative areas)
- Inpatient medical-surgical unit with all private rooms
- Advanced imaging (MRI, CT scan, X-ray, nuclear medicine)
- Medical office building for physician offices
- Sleep Disorders Center
- Outpatient rehabilitation services

We plan to break ground in the spring of 2018, and open the new campus by summer of 2020.

While plans progress for our new campus, LVH-Pocono continues to grow to fulfill our community’s needs. We have built upon our already strong foundation by recruiting even more primary care and specialty providers to Monroe County, and by providing more ExpressCARE locations, an inpatient rehabilitation facility and access to the expertise from our LVHN Heart Institute, LVHN Cancer Institute and LVHN Institute for Special Surgery close to home. To enhance convenience and a seamless experience with LVHN, the integrated Epic electronic medical record for our ambulatory services launched in October.



LVH–Pocono West Plan Approved – LVHN Daily-Hazleton

Please share in our excitement as we grow. We will keep you informed of progress of LVH–Pocono West and all our new services to enhance care in the Pocono community.

Hearing just fine – with a little help



December 04, 2017

Caiden Pinero playfully ran away from his mom, stopping every couple of feet. At every stop, he would turn back and exclaim, “Mommy, I can still hear you!”

“I’ll always remember that day,” says 6-year-old Caiden’s mom, Courtney Derr of Allentown. The date: March 22, 2017. The place: The office of Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) audiologist Alicia Kittle, who had just activated Caiden’s bone-anchored hearing aid, or BAHA. The hearing device is mounted on a magnet which attaches to a surgically implanted base just above his ear.

Caiden was 2-years-old when he was diagnosed with profound unilateral sensorineural hearing loss, or single-sided deafness, in his right ear. “He needed ear tubes for chronic ear infections before he turned a year old,” Derr says. “I did too when I was that age, and so did Daniel (Caiden’s 10-year-old brother). We noticed Caiden wouldn’t respond when we spoke to him on his right side, so I decided to get it checked out.”

Caiden’s hearing options evolve over time

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Hearing just fine – with a little help



Next Steps

**Imagine your phone
not just being smart,
but caring and
compassionate.**

LVHN Video Visits

Derr connected with pediatric otolaryngology surgeon [Sri Chennupati, MD](#), who was based in Philadelphia at the time. Chennupati joined Lehigh Valley Children’s Hospital last year and is now based at [LVPG Pediatric Surgical Specialties](#).

“Initially, we gave Caiden a headband with the hearing aid attached clipped to that,” Chennupati says. “That worked well for a while, but the aid has to remain just above the affected ear to work and as Caiden got older and more active, his mom wanted to move to the surgical solution.”

Derr says the word “active” doesn’t really describe Caiden accurately.

“I call him my wild child,” Derr says. “He’s always flying around doing something. The headband was always moving around, it was frustrating him.”

Patients have to reach the age of 5 before they’ve developed enough physically for the surgical BAHA option to become available. When Caiden reached that age, Derr was thrilled to find out Chennupati had moved to LVHN, 10 minutes from her home.

“Caiden loves Dr. Chennupati and wouldn’t have been comfortable with anyone else doing the surgery,” Derr says.

BAHA lets Caiden play with few limits

Chennupati performed the 45-minute outpatient BAHA procedure on Feb. 10. A magnetic transmitter about the size of a quarter is implanted into the bone about an inch above and behind the top of the ear. Externally, a battery-powered hearing aid (about the size of a small raisin box) magnetically attaches to the transmitter. The hearing aid streams sound waves to the base which then transmits sound to the brain. Since the affected ear can’t do anything with sound waves, the brain actually receives them from the good ear, which the brain can decode as coming from the other side.

“It works quite well most of the time,” Chennupati says.

“Caiden has to remove the external hearing aid for certain activities. He can’t take karate classes or play football with it attached for example. He merely takes it off in those

situations. Otherwise it’s always there for him and from all indications he really loves it.”

With BAHA, Caiden “hears great”

“Following the surgery, we waited for the swelling to recede before he came in to have the BAHA device programmed,” Kittle says. That took about six weeks.

“Once in use, the battery lasts about three days before it needs to be changed. There are still some challenges to overcome, such as processing speech in difficult listening environments – walking down a noisy hallway at school for example. But those kinds of challenges are there for children with two good ears too. In time the brain adapts,” Kittle says.

Many children may choose to grow their hair a little longer to cover the hearing aid. Not Caiden.

“I like it,” he says. “I like to show my friends the scar from the operation too. What’s best is I can hear great now because of Dr. Chennupati and Dr. Kittle.”

LVHN Doctor of Physical Therapy Sees Rehab as an Effective Solution to Current U.S. Opioid Epidemic

LVHN's Karen Snowden, DPT, highlights pain management alternatives



Lehigh Valley, Pa., December 01, 2017

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 91 Americans died each day in 2015 of drug overdoses involving an opioid, continuing a 15-year upward trend in fatalities related to pain-management drugs.^[1]

As solutions continue to evolve nationwide, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) physical therapist, Karen Snowden, DPT, suggests a dual response:

- A team approach that evaluates pain management strategies across all health care providers involved with a patient

Home

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LVHN Doctor of Physical Therapy Sees Rehab as an Effective Solution to Current U.S. Opioid Epidemic



- The use of information to enable patients to understand their pain, thereby lessening the reliance on pharmaceuticals.

Snowden has more than 30 years' experience in physical therapy, 11 of them with Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN). She treats pelvic conditions that patients often characterize as agonizing, including painful intercourse, coccyx (tailbone) pain, fibromyalgia and high-risk pregnancy.

Team Approach

Snowden says that coordinating care in a team approach, across all health care providers a patient is seeing, can mitigate the effects of depression, anxiety and stress – all factors that contribute to opioid addiction. By collaborating, these providers can address the suffering in aggregate, lessening the reliance on pharmaceuticals.

“Treating the whole person with a multidisciplinary approach helps reduce a patient’s pain,” Snowden says. “For example, pain messages are often part of the body’s protection mechanism. So incorporating stress-reducing strategies can be helpful in reducing some sources of pain.”

“After all,” she says, “the central focus needs to be treating the whole patient.”

Education

“Research supports the value of educating patients in understanding the causes of their pain and

ways to reduce it,” Snowden says. “Knowledge helps reduce pain.”

“For example, we used to believe that pain originates in tissue. Now, we know that pain exists only when the brain determines it. A bump on the elbow or a stubbed toe can be experienced as different levels of pain, depending on how that sensory information is processed by the brain. Redirect how that information is being processed cognitively, and it’s possible to change the perception of pain from excruciating to manageable. Once that happens, we can speed recovery, for instance, by lessening post-op reliance on prescription pain medication.”

Snowden advises all patients discuss this topic with their physicians.

“No one should put his or her health at risk to be pain free,” she says. “Patients should ask their doctors about alternative ways to safely treat pain. This discussion should include whether rehab, such as physical therapy or occupational therapy, might be a helpful option for recovery.”

“There are several non-pharmacological options that help a variety of pain conditions. Patients need evidence-based information to make informed decisions about their health care,” Snowden says.

[1] <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html>

About LVHN

Lehigh Valley Health Network includes eight hospital campuses - three in Allentown including the region's only facility dedicated to orthopedic surgery, one in Bethlehem, one in Hazleton, two in Pottsville, and one in East Stroudsburg; 22 health centers caring for communities in five counties; numerous primary and specialty care physician practices throughout the region; pharmacy, imaging, home health services and lab services; and preferred provider services through Valley Preferred. Specialty care includes: trauma care at the region's busiest, most-experienced trauma center treating adults and children, burn care at the regional Burn Center, kidney and pancreas transplants; perinatal/neonatal, cardiac, cancer care, and neurology and complex neurosurgery capabilities including national certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. [Lehigh Valley Children's Hospital](#), the only children's hospital in the region, provides care in 28 specialties and general pediatrics. Lehigh Valley Health Network has been [recognized by U.S. News & World Report](#) for 22 consecutive years as one of America's Best Hospitals. [Lehigh Valley Hospital–Cedar Crest](#), [Lehigh Valley Hospital–17th Street](#) and [Lehigh Valley Hospital–Muhlenberg](#) are national Magnet hospitals for excellence in nursing. LVHN's Cancer Institute is a formal member of the [Memorial Sloan Kettering \(MSK\) Cancer Alliance](#), a transformative initiative to improve the quality of care and outcomes for people with cancer in community health care settings, including access to key MSK clinical trials. Additional information is available by visiting [LVHN.org](https://www.lvhn.org), or following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

LVHN Acquires Weller Health Education Center

Weller Health Education at



Lehigh Valley, Pa., December 01, 2017

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) has acquired the Weller Health Education Center (Weller Center). LVHN's acquisition follows a formal RFP process initiated by the Center in 2015 to locate a potential partner with the depth and breadth of resources to sustain, expand and improve upon Weller's intellectual property.

Lehigh Valley Children's Hospital was the unanimous choice of the Weller Center's Board of Directors, Foundation and staff. The new program will be known as Weller Health Education at Lehigh Valley Children's Hospital.

The new acquisition will enhance Lehigh Valley Children's Hospital's existing school-based health services and outreach programs by providing more resources and accessibility to additional schools, parents and educators. Health education will be available for all grade levels (elementary, middle and high school) including parent/teacher programs.

"Partnering with the Weller Center will allow the Lehigh Valley

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LVHN Acquires Weller Health Education Center



Children's Hospital to expand its ability to help communities make the children of this region as healthy as they can be," says Nathan Hagstrom, MD, MHCM, Chair, Department of Pediatrics at LVHN. "It's a perfect fit with our current pediatric population health and primary care programs and services."

Subject matter is centered on prevention in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse, mental health (including stress, depression and suicide), healthy relationships character education, growth and development, nutrition and fitness, and personal hygiene.

The Weller Center has been providing preventive, science-based health education programs for students in grades K-12 for more than 32 years. Weller takes pride in staying ahead of emerging health trends to create new programs that target the most pertinent health risks facing kids today including depression, prescription drug and heroin use, healthy relationships and building resilience and stress management skills. All programs are presented by professional health educators who are experts at connecting with young people and translating even the most complex information into easy to understand concepts. Faculty and parent programs are also available.

The Weller Center's programs are rigorously evaluated and outcomes based. Students take part in pre- and post-program tests measuring knowledge gain and positive shifts in attitude using an Audience Response System. Following program delivery, participating schools and funders receive impact reports detailing program outcomes.

The Weller Center partners with hundreds of schools each year to change the behaviors of young people and help them develop life-long healthy habits which will prevent chronic disease, reduce violence and improve the overall health, safety and well-being of children and families in our communities.

The Center is supported in its mission through an endowment held by a separate trust, known as the Weller Trust. The Weller Trust will remain in existence and make distributions from its endowment to LVHN at the same levels it has historically. Endowment distributions will be used to support

the Weller Center operations including program development, delivery and evaluation.

About LVHN

Lehigh Valley Health Network includes eight hospital campuses - three in Allentown including the region's only facility dedicated to orthopedic surgery, one in Bethlehem, one in Hazleton, two in Pottsville, and one in East Stroudsburg; 22 health centers caring for communities in five counties; numerous primary and specialty care physician practices throughout the region; pharmacy, imaging, home health services and lab services; and preferred provider services through Valley Preferred. Specialty care includes: trauma care at the region's busiest, most-experienced trauma center treating adults and children, burn care at the regional Burn Center, kidney and pancreas transplants; perinatal/neonatal, cardiac, cancer care, and neurology and complex neurosurgery capabilities including national certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. [Lehigh Valley Children's Hospital](#), the only children's hospital in the region, provides care in 28 specialties and general pediatrics. Lehigh Valley Health Network has been [recognized by U.S. News & World Report](#) for 22 consecutive years as one of America's Best Hospitals. [Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest](#), [Lehigh Valley Hospital-17th Street](#) and [Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg](#) are national Magnet hospitals for excellence in nursing. LVHN's Cancer Institute is a formal member of the [Memorial Sloan Kettering \(MSK\) Cancer Alliance](#), a transformative initiative to improve the quality of care and outcomes for people with cancer in community health care settings, including access to key MSK clinical trials. Additional information is available by visiting [LVHN.org](#), or following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).